GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3804
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PRODUCTION OF TEA
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ever assessed the per hectare production of Tea in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production of tea has decreased during the last three years;

(d) the per hectare yield of tea in foreign countries and the reasons for lesser per hectare yield in India;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the production of tea; and

(f) the incentives likely to be given to tea growers to increase tea production in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Yes sir. Yield per hectare of tea during 2004 was 1713 kg. (provisional)

(c) : No Sir.

(d) : As per available information, the average per hectare yield of tea in Sri Lanka, China, Kenya and Indonesia during 2004 (provisional) was 1633 kg., 662 kg., 2470 kg. and 1154 kg. respectively. The yield per hectare in India is higher than Sri Lanka, China and Indonesia. In the case of Kenya, the tea plantations are relatively young whereas in India about 38% of the tea bushes have crossed the economic threshold age of 50 years.

(e) & (f) : A number of developmental schemes are being implemented by the Tea Board during the 10th Five Year Plan for enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of tea produced in the country under which financial and technical assistance is provided for undertaking replantation, rejuvenation, new planting in non-traditional areas in North Eastern States and Uttaranchal, creation of irrigation facilities, setting up of self help groups among the small tea growers, modernization of factories, etc.

Government is also examining ways and means of introducing a programme for massive replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes. The detailed costing and modalities of funding the programme, including setting up of a Special Purpose Tea Fund, is under consideration.